

August 2017

Dear Colleagues:

You have probably been wondering what the Senate Leadership has been doing after our extraordinary senate meeting was held on May 4th of last year to discuss the surprising Purdue/Kaplan deal. I would like to give you a quick update here:

I. Resolutions with teeth: Given the timing of the Purdue/Kaplan deal announcement, I called for a meeting of various senators and other interested faculty members who have been active in the senate and the university community. At this meeting, I gathered their input in order to draft a letter of opposition against the proposed deal. This letter was then sent to all the members of the [Indiana Commission for Higher Education and the Higher Learning Commission](#).

One of the main goals of this letter was to demonstrate that the University Senate can do a lot more than just pass resolutions and complain about issues (e.g., shared governance being ignored). We have a great deal of power and influence about what kind of higher learning institution we wish to be and what path we should follow. Thus, I would like us to explore ways we can improve our collaboration with the administration and at the same time re-assert our collective voice. This does not mean being combative, and it does not mean being reactive either and just passively accepting “our fate.” We can expect more from ourselves, the University Senate and the central administration.

II. Follow-Up and Presentations to the BoT: Related to the above, and in an effort to ensure that the resolutions we pass are followed up, I have attended the two Board of Trustees meetings scheduled for this summer. At these meetings, I have made clear—in the short time allocated—our concerns regarding the Purdue/Kaplan deal ([Chair Reports to Trustee, June 16th 2017](#) & [Chair Report to Trustees, August 4th 2017](#)).

There are other important issues that we need address this year, and I look forward to sharing more information with you soon. In the meantime, feel free to share this update with your colleagues and encourage them to get involved.

Best wishes for a productive and successful semester,

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